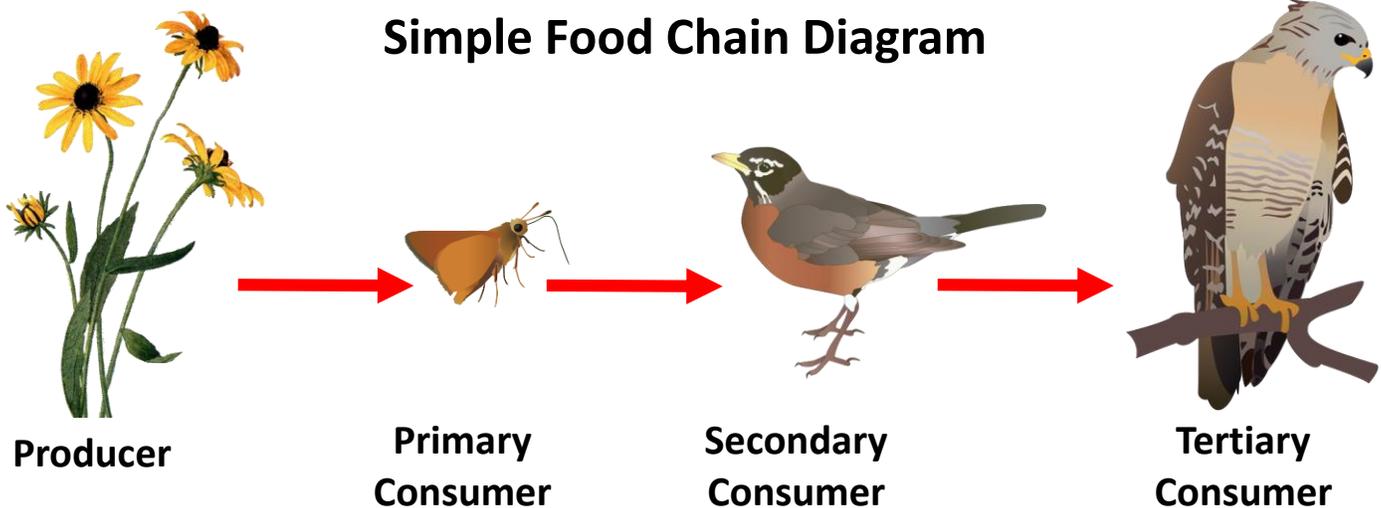


# Maryland Forest Food Web

A **food chain** is a model that shows how energy is passed, in the form of food, from one organism to another. A series of connected food chains make up a **food web**. Food chains and webs are organized by **trophic levels** which are feeding positions in the web. At each level of the food chain, energy is lost because it is used by the organism itself for respiration. This energy loss limits the number of steps within a food chain.

The lowest trophic level contains the **producers** (autotrophs) which manufacture their own food and the **decomposers** which break down existing organic material. Plants generally fall into producer category while fungi are typically decomposers. The organisms which feed on plants and other producers are then considered to be **primary consumers**. Anything that eats a primary consumer is then considered to be a **secondary consumer**. Animals that eat secondary consumers are known as **tertiary consumers**. Food chains and food webs are, therefore, comprised of multiple predator and prey relationships.

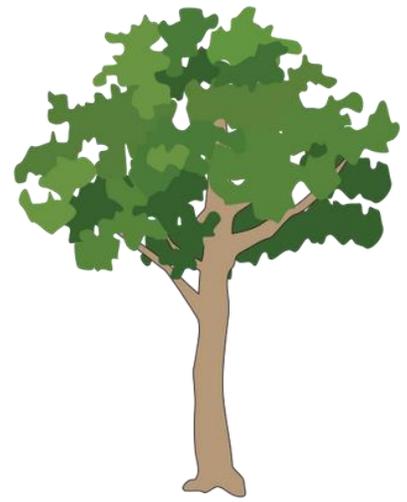
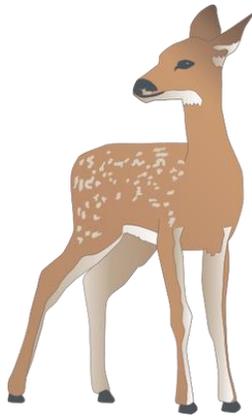
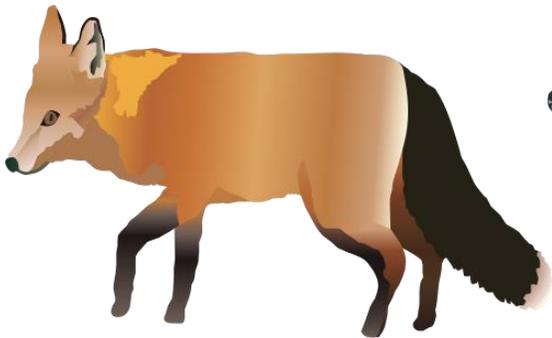
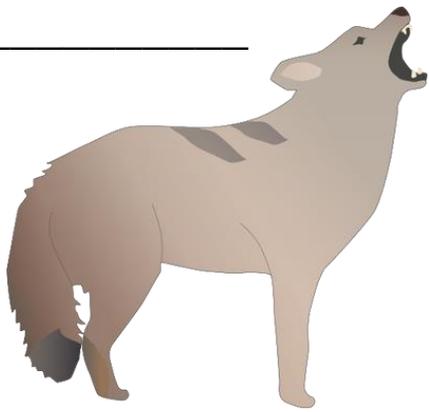
## Simple Food Chain Diagram



**Image Credit:** Food web graphics are courtesy of Tracey Saxby, Kim Kraeer, Lucy Van Essen-Fishman, and Jane Hawkey, Integration and Application Network, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science ([ian.umces.edu/imagelibrary/](http://ian.umces.edu/imagelibrary/)).

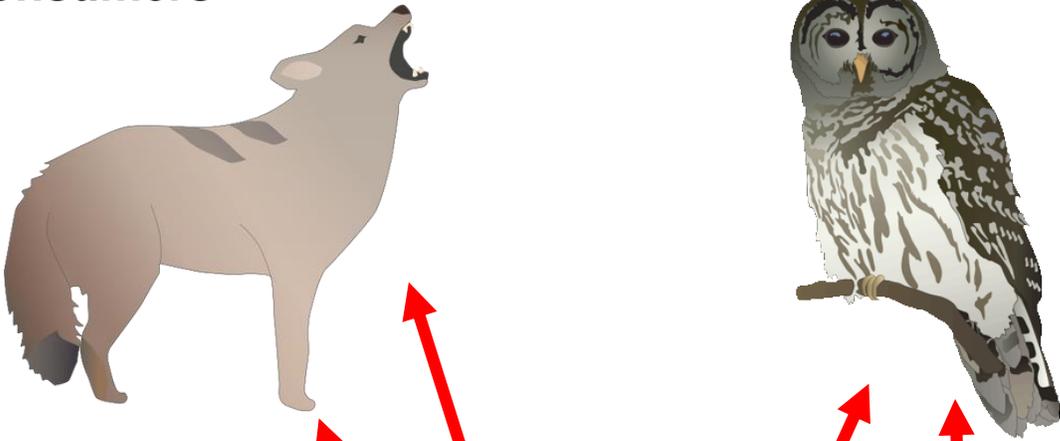
# Forest Food Web

Label the trophic levels and add arrows to depict the flow of energy.

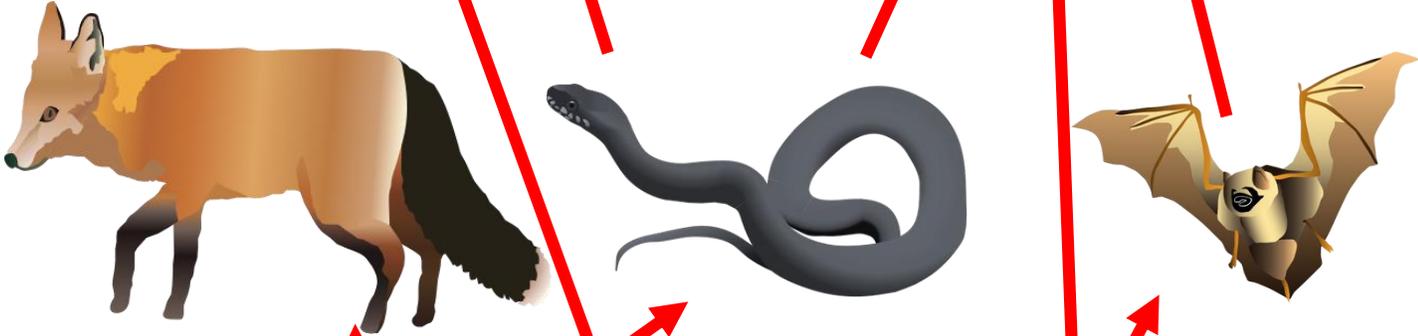


# Forest Food Web Key

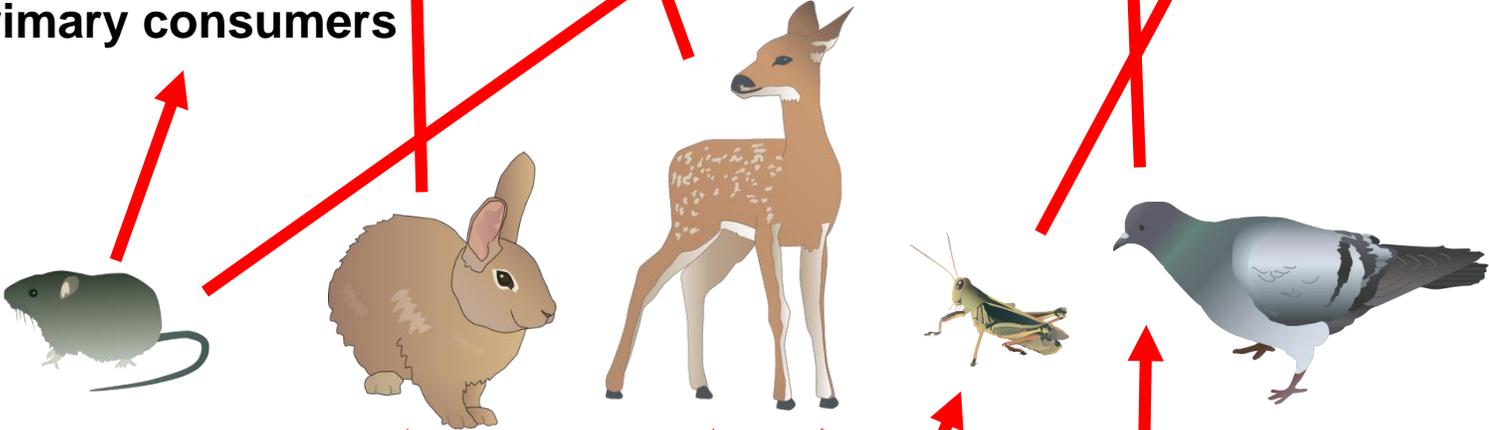
Tertiary consumers



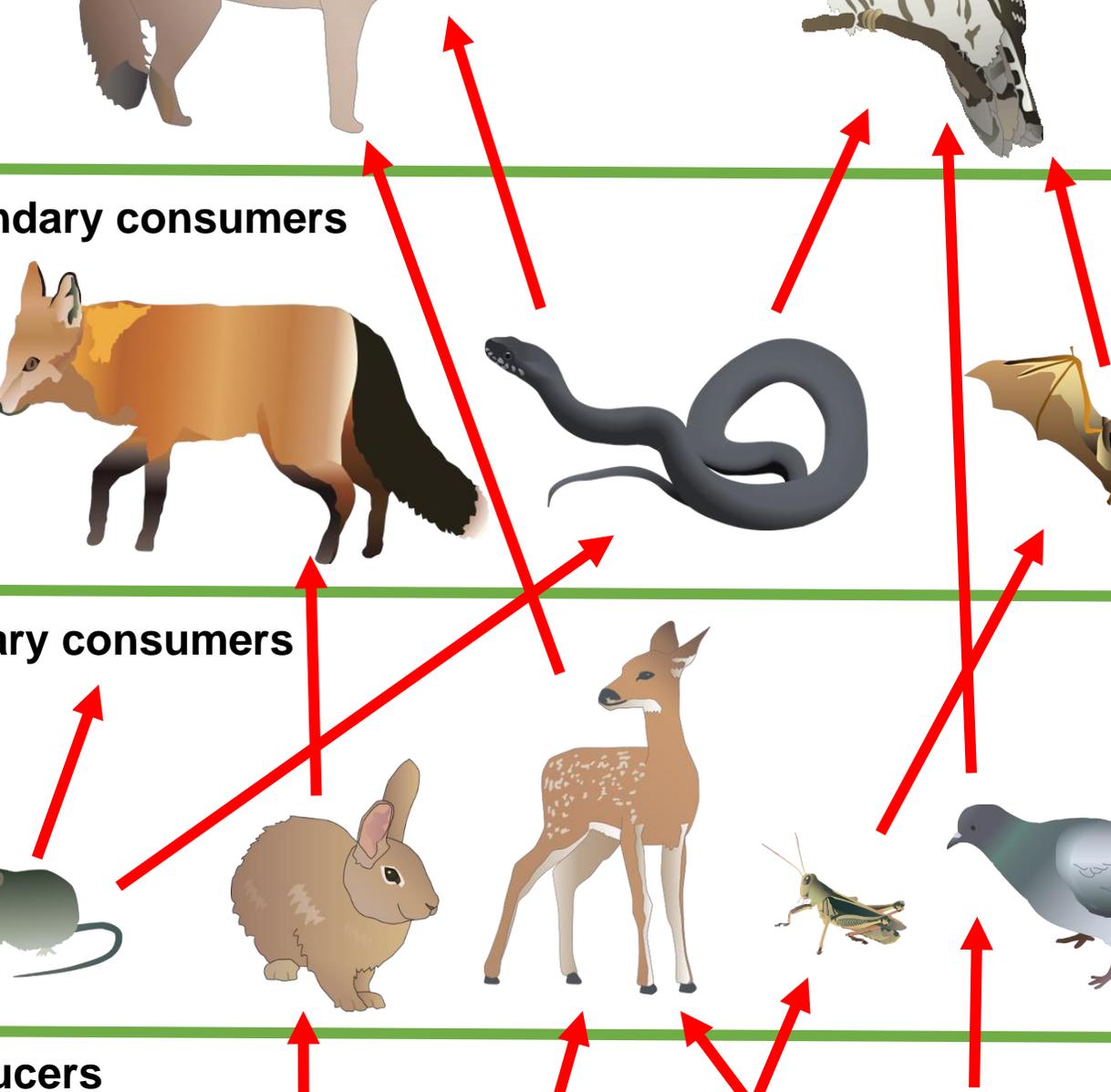
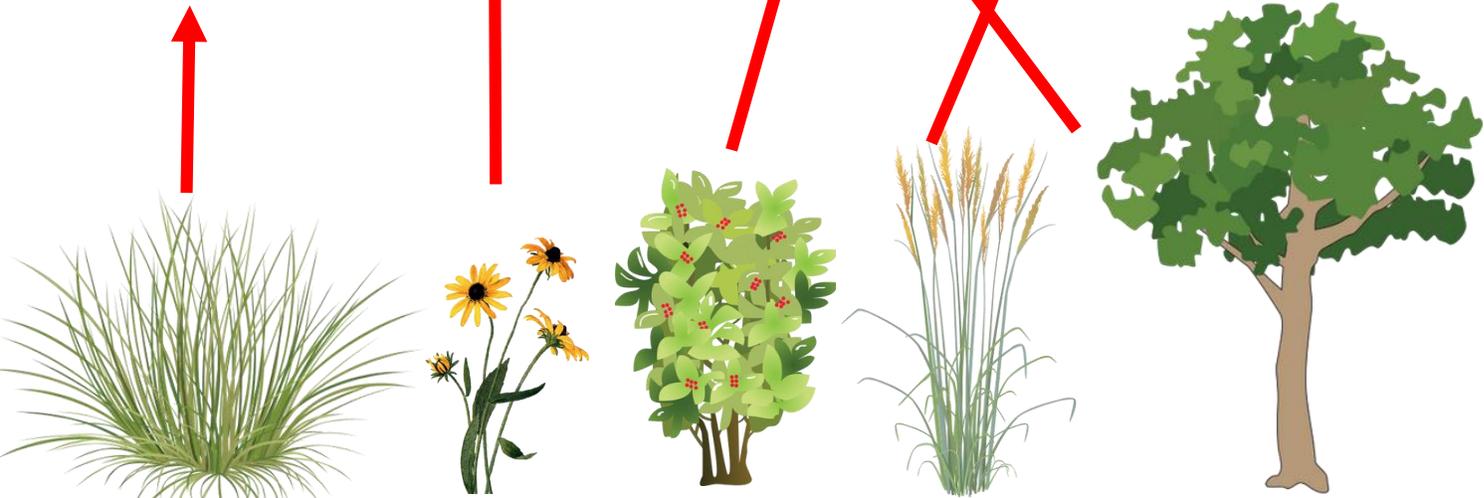
Secondary consumers



Primary consumers



Producers



# Forest Food Web Cards



**Eastern Coyote**

Tertiary Consumer

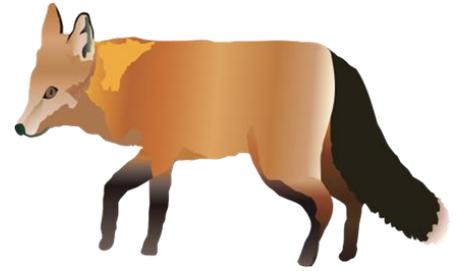
Eats: Small mammals, plants, fawns (occasionally)



**Barred Owl**

Tertiary Consumer

Eats: Small mammals, other birds



**Red Fox**

Secondary Consumer

Eats: Small mammals, birds, plants



**Eastern Ratsnake**

Secondary Consumer

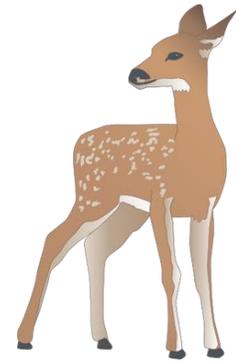
Eats: Small mammals, birds, and eggs



**Big Brown Bat**

Secondary Consumer

Eats: Moths, beetles, grasshoppers, and other insects



**White-tailed Deer**

Primary Consumer

Eats: Plants



**Eastern Cottontail**

Primary Consumer

Eats: Plants



**White-footed Deer Mouse**

Primary Consumer

Eats: Plants



**Pigeon**

Primary Consumer

Eats: Plants, seeds, and nuts

# Forest Food Web Cards



**Grasshopper**

Primary Consumer

Eats: Plants, seeds, and nuts



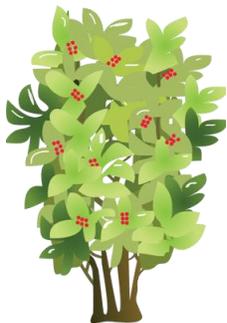
**Sedge**

Producer



**Black-eyed Susan**

Producer



**Holly**

Producer



**Indiangrass**

Producer



**White Oak**

Producer

Eats: \_\_\_\_\_

Eats: \_\_\_\_\_

Eats: \_\_\_\_\_

# Forest Food Web Cards



**Eastern Coyote**

Trophic level:

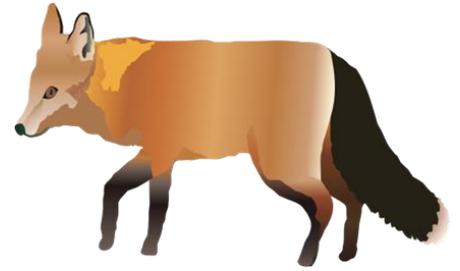
Eats:



**Barred Owl**

Trophic level:

Eats:



**Red Fox**

Trophic level:

Eats:



**Eastern Ratsnake**

Trophic level:

Eats:



**Big Brown Bat**

Trophic level:

Eats:



**White-tailed Deer**

Trophic level:

Eats:



**Eastern Cottontail**

Trophic level:

Eats:



**White-footed Deer Mouse**

Trophic level:

Eats:



**Pigeon**

Trophic level:

Eats:

# Forest Food Web Cards

**Grasshopper**

Trophic level:

Eats:



**Sedge**

Trophic level:



**Black-eyed Susan**

Trophic level:



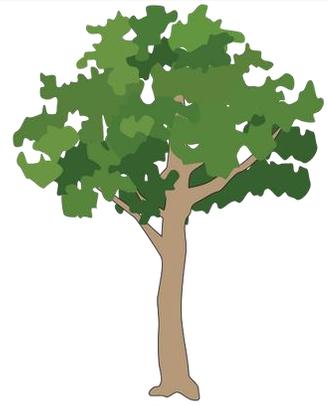
**Holly**

Trophic level:



**Indiangrass**

Trophic level:



**White Oak**

Trophic level:

Trophic level:

Eats:

Trophic level:

Eats:

Trophic level:

Eats: